



## **Frequently Asked Questions about Change to Secondary Certificate**

**1) Why did the grade range of the Secondary certificate change from 7-12 to 6-12?**

The grade range of the Secondary certificate has been expanded to include 6<sup>th</sup> grade because most Arizona middle schools are configured for grades 6-8. The rule change benefits districts who hire middle school teachers because it increases the pool of qualified candidates certified to teach in single subject, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms.

**2) My Secondary certificate indicates it is valid for grades 7-12. How can I get an updated certificate?**

You may receive an updated certificate by submitting a completed [Application for Name Change/Duplicate Copy](#) to the Certification office. The \$20 duplicate copy fee will be waived for Secondary certificate holders until March 8, 2015.

**3) Can I teach self-contained 6<sup>th</sup> grade if I hold a Secondary certificate?**

No. The Secondary certificate only authorizes you to teach the approved subject areas listed on the certificate in a departmentalized setting.

**4) If I hold an Elementary, grades 1-8 certificate am I still certified to teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade?**

Yes. Elementary certificate holders still have the ability to teach in either a self-contained or departmentalized 6<sup>th</sup> grade setting. The rule change does not impact your certificate or the way in which it can be used.

**5) Why is the Secondary STEM certificate still valid for 7-12?**

The Secondary STEM certificate was created through legislation which specifies the 7-12 grade range of the certificate. The Arizona Department of Education is working with the legislature to expand the grade level of the Secondary STEM certificate to cover grades 6-12.

*The Certification and Highly Qualified Units are currently working on an FAQ to address the impact of this change to Federal requirements (HQ).*